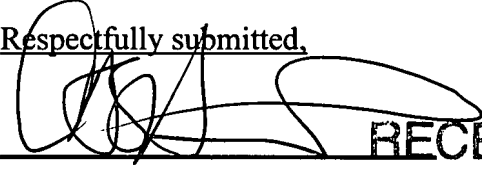


Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is solicited.

Dated: December 10, 1999

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Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence with all attachments is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box No Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 10, 1999m by I. Marie Kotsubo.

